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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLOFAX 12

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT LDP Party Matters

ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Because the disagreement between Reif and Lieutenant

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could not be settled in any other fashion, it was referred to a committee composed of members of the Executive Committee of the party. Since four of the five members of this committee were followers of Lieutenant, there could be little doubt as to its final decision. The report, which was made on 8 June 1947 at a meeting of the executive committee, stated that the committee had been unable to find any evidence of maladministration on the part of Lieutenant and that any irregularities in his conduct of business were certainly excusable in view of the fact that he is overburdened with work. The report went on to recommend that the situation be eased by the employment of more office workers.

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Comment: It is to be understood that the decision of the conciliation committee will not be regarded as final, and it is likely that the party leaders were subjected to sharp criticism at the party convention in Eisenach in July.)

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2. Plans for the LDP Party Convention to be held in Eisenach were discussed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the party on 18 June. Although the Russians had originally agreed to the housing and feeding of 2,000 persons, they reduced the number, first to 1300, then to 1000, and finally to 400. Foreign friends of the Liberal Democratic Movement (three Swiss, two Swedish, one English) who had applied for permission to attend the convention were refused it by the Russians.
3. Because of the different opinions on the Munich Conference of Minister-Presidents expressed by various officials and groups within the LDP, and the resulting difficulties with the Russian authorities, it was decided in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 18 June that there would have to be a stricter enforcement of party discipline. In addition, the party directorate was to telegraph its views on questions of moment to all persons and groups concerned as quickly as possible.
4. Restrictive measures directed against the two "bourgeois" parties, the LDP and the CDU, have increased notably throughout the Russian Zone since the termination of the Moscow conference. Regulations were issued in May 1947 directing that each new party member might be admitted only by an assembly of the local group at which two-thirds of the members were present. The size and number of political meetings are strictly controlled, and admissions are closely investigated and frequently declared invalid by Russian officials.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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